

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes
June 25, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Natalie Garza, District One
Diana Sanchez Lira, District Three
Randy Preissig, District Four
Armando Rivera Jr., District Five

Don Rios, District Seven
Robert Trottmann, District Eight
John Kent, District Nine
William Long, Mayoral Appointee

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation

Sofia Martino, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Ellen Ott
Ron Jahejzke
Fred Chase
Alesia Garlock
Gary Perez
Leon O'Brian

Sarah Esserlieu Khalil
Kathy Schwencke
Mike Schwencke
Matilde Torres
Spence Calderon Onefeather

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the May 28, 2024 meeting.
M: Randy Preissig, District Four
S: Don Rios, District Seven
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Alesia Garlock stated that she is an environmental wildlife advocate that lobbies to protect migratory birds. She shared that she is also fighting to protect trees to combat the heat island effect. She thanked the board for their role in protecting our waterways. She then spoke about the bird deterrent activities that are going on at Woodlawn Lake, as well as Brackenridge and Elmendorf. She asked the board to learn more about the migratory birds and advocate for their protection.
- Matilde Torres spoke about the wildlife issues that have been going on at Woodlawn, Brackenridge, and Elmendorf. Ms. Torres stated that she witnessed explosives being shot toward the playground and is concerned about the displacement of the migratory birds, which is related to the conservation efforts of the Great Springs Project.
 - Mr. Kent asked if these issues have been brought up at the Parks Advisory Board, to which Ms. Torres responded yes.
- Gary Perez spoke about his discovery of four mountain springs on a piece of rock art in 2011, which he has written several papers on. He said that he was part of the Headwaters Board and helped create a conservation easement around the Blue Hole at Incarnate Word. He stated that he hopes the Great Springs Project is successful. He said that this project started as a small group of project people back in the 90s to protect Barton Springs.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- William Long, Mayoral Appointee
 - Mr. Long spoke about the Bike Network Plan, which is in its final rounds of outreach. The final plan should be ready by the end of the year.
 - Mr. Long stated that there is a bike crossing sign near Los Patios that is hanging upside down. He is requesting that Parks staff fix this.
- Robert Trottmann, District Eight
 - Mr. Trottmann stated that there is some vegetation overgrowth around the Boardwalk near LBJ Park that is encroaching onto the trail.
- Don Rios, District Seven
 - Mr. Rios spoke about the Border Brook Trailhead, which is part of Leon Creek. He pointed out that there is some brush and sediment impeding the stormwater drain near the trailhead, as well as overgrown grass, and a missing section of sidewalk that affects pedestrian accessibility. He also suggested some benches and tree plantings be added along the trail and near the trailhead.
 - Mr. Rios spoke about Joan Price Park, which has several dead trees that need to be removed and suggested new trees be planted in anticipation of a future trail extension through here.
 - Mr. Rios shared that he will be meeting with Paula Stalcup from 311 SA to discuss how citizens can effectively report dead trees and other park issues.
 - Mr. Rios expressed concern about the treatment of trees at various parks locations and requested that the city emphasize to contractors to take better care of tree plantings and avoid harming them with landscaping equipment.
- Diana Sanchez Lira District Three
 - Dr. Sanchez Lira shared that she is the new district three representative and is a psychologist, so she is naturally interested in the health and wellness of San Antonio and its citizens.

Presentation on A Regional Vision for Conservation and Connectivity by Sarah Esserlieu Khali, Great Springs Project:

- Ms. Esserlieu Khali spoke about the Great Springs Project, which aims to create a 100-mile spring to spring trail network from the Alamo to the Capitol. This trail will connect the San Antonio Springs, Comal Springs, San Marcos Springs, and Barton Springs. As part of this project, they aim to conserve an additional 50,000 acres of land over the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone between San Antonio and Austin.
- Ms. Esserlieu Khali shared that these trails will range from very urban trails that are paved and along roadways, to very rural where the trail is just a gravel path along the countryside. Currently, 1/3 of the project alignment has already been built, while other segments are still pending design and development. The Great Springs Organization hopes to have the entire project completed by 2036.
- The Great Springs Project starts within the City of San Antonio at the San Antonio Springs, going from the Blue Hole through Olmos Basin, along the proposed Flyway on Wetmore Road. Then at this point, users could choose to either go North toward McAllister Park or more East toward LBJ Park – both paths eventually connect and lead to Austin.
- Ms. Esserlieu Khali stated that they are working with several municipalities and local organizations to make this happen, such as the City of San Antonio, Texas Land Conservancy, and the Hill Country Alliance. They are also working with the Department of Defense, who are leading their own effort to conserve land in the area around Camp Bullis.
- You can learn more about the Great Springs Project at greatspringsproject.org.

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Ross reported on trail projects that are currently in progress.
 - Mr. Ross stated that almost all trail projects are currently in design, with most starting construction next year. Several projects, including the Zarzamora Creek trail from Ingram Road to Tierra del Sol Park, the Huebner Creek Trail from Medical Center Park to Floyd Curl, and the Beitel Creek Project from Thousand Oaks to LBJ Park are reaching the final stages of design.
 - Mr. Ross spoke about the coordination between the City of San Antonio and the City of Leon Valley to connect the Medical Center area to Leon Creek greenway.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:57 p.m.

Motion: Randy Pressig, District One

Second: Don Rios, District Seven

Motion Carried.